

Mishicot plans celebration to honor Jambo Creek trader

MISHICOT — As committee members plan for a three-day celebration on June 9-11 in honor of Jacques Vieau, the French fur trader who came to Jambo Creek in 1795, this story unfolds.

Vieau was a full-blooded Frenchman born in lower Canada. He was described as 6 foot in height, weighing 210-215 pounds, clean shaven, light hair which inclined to curl, a full round and broad face, naturally temperate as to drink, and having a happy, sociable disposition which made him very popular among white men and Indians.

He established a fur trading post at Jambo Creek in 1795 and it was the first white settlement in Manitowoc County.

Leo Vieau is a direct descendant (great-great-grandson) of Jacques Vieau. He and his wife, Dorothy, live in Two Rivers. Leo, 76, was born on Dec. 1, 1918. Children of the couple are Linda Schilling, Green Bay; Todd Vieau, Manitowoc; Mary Vieau, Manitowoc; Brad Vieau, Corona, Calif.; Karl Vieau, Green Bay; and Lori Jarvenpaa, Wausau.

Leo's parents were Joseph and Mary Vieau. The youngest of a family of nine, he has just one sister living. She is Orilla Weier, residing at St. Mary's Home in Manitowoc. Other family members were Rose LeClair, Eddie Vieau, Leona Schnorr, Ethel LeMere, Gertrude Wanek, Joseph, and Margaret Bonk, all deceased.

Some of the family history is a bit vague, but Leo remembers hearing about a grandfather, Andrew. Searching through early history, dates and names do not always coincide. Andrew J. Vieau Sr. was a son of Jacques Vieau and is Leo's great-grandfather. Leo's grandparents were John and Jane Vieau. John was a fisherman. This information was taken from a recorded marriage license just recently.

Jacques Vieau was known all the way from Mackinac to Milwaukee



The Mishicot Sportsmen Club is sponsoring Jambo Creek Days on June 9-11. Gathered at the Mishicot Historic Museum are, from left, Karl Vieau of Green Bay; Dorothy and Leo Vieau of Two Rivers, direct descendants of Jacques Vieau; and Mike Kronforst of Two Rivers.

Jeanette Heyroth photo

**Jeanette
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Mishicot



and had established trading posts along the way.

Andrew J. Vieau Sr. married Rebecca R. Lawe. He was chairman of the Manitowoc County Board. Andrew dealt in lumber and dry goods in Two Rivers and took possession of John Lawe's mill in 1843. Two Rivers was a settlement of fewer than a dozen homes. There were 24 inhabitants. Andrew was followed to Two Rivers by Daniel Smith in 1844, who leased the mill which was then sold to H.H. Smith in 1847. Andrew was also postmas-

ter in Two Rivers for a few years.

People used to say Andrew lit his cigars with \$10 bills. On his wedding trip in 1837, he and his wife took a "French train" across the country to Milwaukee. The sleigh was a deep box, 6-feet long by 35-inches wide, which slipped easily on the surface of the snow, when drawn by two horses.

The trail to Milwaukee took four days. Andrew had an establishment in Milwaukee with two sections. One was for the general public and the other room was where Indians could be waited on separately.

These early settlers often married at age 30 or 40, but still had large families. Jacques Vieau was married to Angeline LeRoy and their children in order of birth were Madeleine, Josette, Paul, Jacques, Louis, Joseph, Amable, Charles, Andrew, Nicholas, Peter and Mary. Jacques died at 96 and his wife was 105.